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Denendeh Planning

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December 1989

Volume 1 Number 1

The Future is Now!

Chairperson's Message

Welcome to *Denendeh Planning*, a newsletter created to keep you, the public, informed of the progress that we all are making in land use planning in the Denendeh region. Land use planning is a public process. If you feel there are any issues or topics that we should be looking at, or ways in which this publication can be improved, please don't hesitate to contact any commissioner or staff member.

We're embarking on a three year exercise. In our first few months of existence, we will be visiting as many communities as possible to introduce our Commission, and to discuss how we might best go about completing the planning exercise.

I look forward to meeting many of you.

David McCann
Chairperson - Denendeh Planning Commission



Fur farming

Photo: Bruce Sekulich

Commission initial community tour

Because Commissioners feel that community participation is critical at all stages of the process the Commission is now undertaking visits to communities to gather input on the terms of reference which will guide the process. Several community meetings have been held and many more will take place before Christmas.

Already the Commission is starting to recognize that some of the same issues are being raised by many communities. The most-often heard concern is that of environmental protection - people in the North are hopeful that through proper planning and regulation the northern environment can be protected from many of the problems which have developed down south. Another theme common to all completed visits are the notion that there needs to be improved communication between all land users in order that future problems are avoided or minimized.

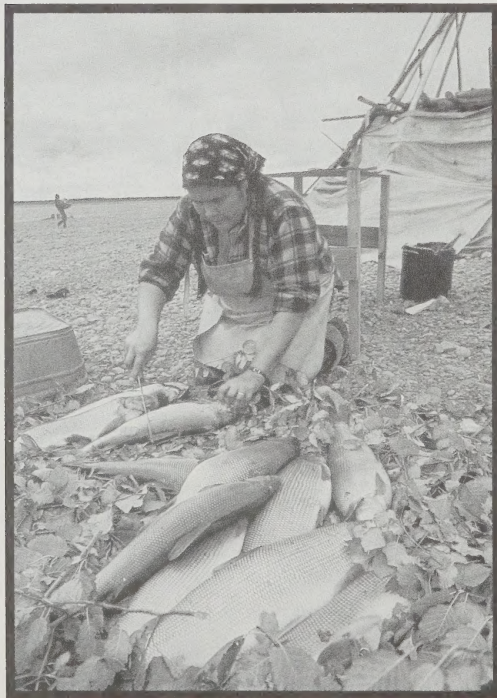
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Other issues raised at community meetings include industrial development's effects on water quality (the case of the Alberta Pacific Pulp Mill in particular):

- the need to protect community supplies of granular materials and firewood
- need to identify agricultural land and stimulate its development
- ensure that people will have the opportunity to continue with traditional resource harvesting
- overall environmental protection

These are some of the issues which have been identified to date. After the first round of community meetings is completed, the Commission will be preparing a discussion paper which lists the issues and provides a possible strategies for their resolution through the planning process.



Fish Camp on the Mackenzie River

Photo: Fran Hurcomb

Land Use Planning is a Public Process

Introducing the Commissioners

All are private citizens with many years of experience in the Northwest Territories. Each has been appointed by the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development upon the recommendation of the Dene/Metis, or the Federal and Territorial Governments. Most Commissioners are long term and current residents of the Denendeh region. A brief biographical sketch for each of the Commissioners follows:

Keith Barber of Calgary, formerly senior landman with Panarctic Oils Ltd., has extensive experience in the oil and gas industry, including Arctic operations. Now working as an independent consultant, Barber is familiar with provincial and federal oil and gas acts and regulations, as well as northern land claim negotiations.

Greg Haist of Hay River, has been a resident of the N.W.T. for 15 years. He is a professional engineer, owner of Renwick Engineering, and a part-time market gardener. Haist is president of the Territorial Farmers' Association and a member of the steering committee for the Hay River-Enterprise Corridor Land Use Planning Study.

Rod Hardy of Fort Norman resides in the town of his birth and upbringing. Mr. Hardy is a seasoned northern businessman who has success-

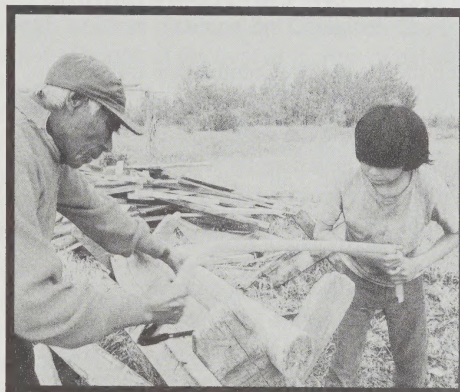
fully worked dog teams and hunted for a living. He has spent many years on settlement and hamlet councils, and served as a negotiator in the land claims process. Hardy occupies seats on the boards of the Government of the N.W.T. Business Loan Fund and the N.W.T. Power Corporation.

Dave McCann has been a resident of Yellowknife since 1974. He is a professional land use planner and owner of Treeline Planning Services Ltd. McCann is a Past President of the the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce and Chairperson of the Commission.

Joe Migwi was born in the bush where he lived for many years before moving to Rae where he currently resides. He is an active hunter and trapper, and holds many community and regional positions including: hamlet councillor, band councillor, director of Rae-Edzo Development Corporation and member of the Dogrib Tribal Council.

Louise Nielsen of Yellowknife is a director of the N.W.T. Chamber of Mines and executive director of the N.W.T. Chamber of Commerce. Since moving to Yellowknife in 1977, she has been active in community and territorial associations and has served as vice-chairman of the National Northern Development Conference.

Jim Villeneuve was born in Fort Simpson where he presently resides with his family. Upon returning to the north from service with the armed forces, he became chief of Fort Resolution Band and was involved in the formation of the Indian Brotherhood, now known as the Dene Nation. Villeneuve has been active in municipal politics serving on the town councils of Fort Smith and Fort Simpson. Currently he operates a small business in Fort Simpson. Villeneuve is Vice-Chairperson of the Commission.



Sawing wood

Photo: Tessa Macintosh

Schedule of Community Visits:

Hay River Reserve	26-Oct
Fort Providence	30-Oct
Kakisa Lake	31-Oct
Hay River	7-Nov
Enterprise	8-Nov
Fort Simpson	20-Nov
Jean Marie River	21-Nov
Rae lakes	21-Jan
Lac La Martre	tba-Jan
Fort Smith	23-Nov
Norman Wells	27-Nov
Rae-Edzo	tba-Jan
Fort Good Hope	28-Nov
Trout lake	tba-Jan
Fort Liard	tba-Jan
Nahanni Butte	tba-Jan
Fort Norman	4-Dec
Fort Franklin	5-Dec
Fort Resolution	5-Dec
Snowdrift	6-Dec
Detah	12-Dec
Yellowknife	13-Dec
Wrigley	tba
Snare Lakes	tba
Colville Lake	tba

tba=to be announced

Land Claims & Land Use Planning

When the Denendeh Commission travels into communities one of the first questions often asked is "What's the difference between land use planning and land claims?" While both claims and planning focus on land there are several important differences between the two processes.

The Dene/Metis are negotiating a settlement of their aboriginal rights with the federal government. Central to the land claims talks are land and resources. Through a final settlement the Dene/Metis will acquire ownership to 70,000 square miles (181,300 sq. km.) of land and participation in joint management of the entire settlement area. Land ownership acquired by the Dene/Metis will amount to around 20 percent of the total land mass.

Land use planning on the other hand is a public process which attempts to develop plans for the total land surface of Denendeh. Denendeh covers approximately 370,000 sq. mi. (960,000 sq. km.) in size. The Denendeh Commission, through consultation with community residents, native organizations, industry and government will be developing plans to guide how land in the Dene/Metis Settlement Area will be used in the future. Land use planning is a process concerned with management of land use and not with actual ownership. Plans will identify guidelines for land use and will be used by land managers to determine what type of development will be allowed and under what conditions it will be allowed. As conditions change plans will be revised to ensure they represent current conditions.

In short, land claims is about land ownership while land use planning concerns itself with how all land is used and preserved.



Streetscape

Photo: Tessa MacIntosh

Pipeline Getting Closer to Reality

With the decision from the National Energy Board (N.E.B.) to approve export of Mackenzie Delta gas to the United States a renewed optimism has surfaced from pipeline companies eager to get in on the action. While a decision to allow construction of a pipeline is several years away both Foothills Pipelines of Calgary and Polar Gas of Toronto have filed applications with the N.E.B. for permission to build a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley. Estimates are that gas might start flowing south by 1996 with construction beginning as early as 1992.

There is a need for northerners to start planning to take advantage of the benefits and minimize the costs associated with a project of this size. While the Denendeh Commission understands that there are already many, many government agencies involved in regulation of pipeline construction, the Commission also sees a role for itself in preparing residents and industry to maximize benefits and minimize land use conflict

Stand-by for further information on this topic.

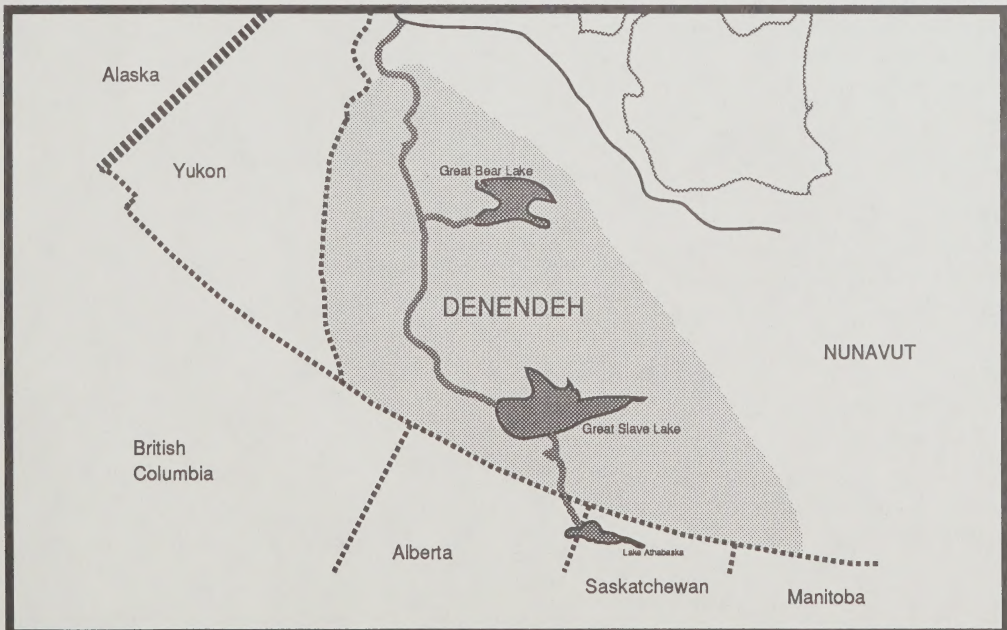
Regional Planning Explained

Earlier this year the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development appointed the Denendeh Land Use Planning Commission and charged them with the mandate of preparing a plan to guide the use of land and resources in the area known as the Dene/Metis Settlement area.

Regional land use planning is a new type of long term exercise for the NWT. An initial plan was recently completed for the Lancaster Sound region in the high Arctic and another is nearly complete for the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea area. Land use plans provide for a balance between orderly development and conservation of the north. In the past, resource developments were often proposed one at a time; posing worries for communities because the cost/benefit balance of the projects were rarely defined in clear enough terms. Projects were evaluated without thorough consideration of other resource uses. Communities have often been in the position of having to react to proposals for development.

Through land use planning the Denendeh Commission will look at the overall picture of existing and potential land use in the region. All uses can and will be taken into account - hunting, fishing, trapping tourism, mining, oil and gas development, gravel extraction etc. The Commission will be meeting with residents, industry, native organizations and government to determine how the different uses affect each other and the land and what the priorities are in different areas. Through the land use planning process we can identify opportunities and guidelines for development. Land use plans will attempt to minimize conflicts between land users.

Over the next three years the Denendeh Commission will be meeting with the public, industry and government to develop a land use plan for the Dene/Metis Settlement area. Upon completion of the plan the federal and territorial governments will be asked for their approval and assistance in implementation of the plan.



Denendeh Land Use Planning Region

Feed back!!

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE LAND AND RESOURCE USE IN THE WESTERN NWT?

How do you think that orderly development should best proceed with minimal environmental disruption and maximum benefits to residents?

If you are concerned about these or other related issues then the Denendeh Commission would like to hear from you. If you feel there are certain issues which need to be addressed through land use planning or if you just want to be kept informed about the Commission's activities please fill in the following form and send it to the Commission at the address below.

The Denendeh Planning Commission should address the following issues during the preparation of the Plan:

Please add my name to the mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Community: _____

Postal Code: _____

Cut out this coupon and send to:

Denendeh Planning Commission
Box 2280
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P7



Denendeh Planning newsletter is published by the Denendeh Planning Commission in their Yellowknife offices. Information is prepared by staff assigned by the three contributing partner-organizations: Dene/Metis Secretariat, GNWT Renewable Resources, and the DIAND Northern Land Use Office. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the policy of the Government of Canada or the NWT government. Information is provided to inform the residents of progress on the Denendeh Plan. Planning office staff and Commissioners welcome your comments on issues important to you.

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